

## **FROM NATIONAL GATHERING '98 REPORT BY DAVID (TAS)**

At National Gathering '98 we considered further the need and possible mechanisms for an AVP national identity and policy.

We have adopted in principle, subject to ratification by the State bodies, the following elements in a cooperative national AVP structure.

### **1 A legal entity ("AVP Australia")**

- Membership/ownership comprises the State/regional bodies
- Objective: To protect the name, core principles and key materials of AVP
- Powers: To affiliate (and disaffiliate) State/regional AVP groups, and to represent AVP's interests at the national level (including access to national funds)
- Nature of incorporation and/or registration to be determined
- Includes trusteeship of the assets and intellectual property of AVP Australia
- Meets normally only once a year, at the AGM (held in conjunction with the National Gathering)
- Exists to satisfy legal requirements for national entity.

### **2 The National Gathering**

- which is the most important process for decision making, and which discusses and determines/proposes policy on important matters (ie. related to the core principles, good name, manuals and other key materials of AVP). While the National Gathering should attempt to be representative, it should seek to reach decisions by consensus.

### **3 Some sort of care/monitoring process ("care bears")**

- A co-operative activity of the State/regional groups, accountable to the National Gathering
- To monitor and advise on matters relating to the maintenance of AVP's core values, and to nurture State and regional groups when required
- Not an administrative or decision-making body
- In regular contact via teleconferencing and able to gather in emergencies.

### **4 A process for exchange of information and materials:**

- "Clearing house" (the physical role of information exchange)
- Newsletter
- Internet (web site, discussion list etc)
- Liaison with AVP International.

For discussion by State groups:

Do you agree that we should adopt and develop the above form of a national AVP organisation?

If there is general support for the idea, a working group will continue to investigate and develop the model for State groups to discuss. We hope that a decision on whether or not to adopt a recommended form of national entity can be made at or before National Gathering 1999.

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## EXTRACT FROM THE 1999 NATIONAL GATHERING REPORT

### **“RESPONSES TO THE 1998 DECISIONS**

David's report from last year containing the recommendations reached by the 1998 National Gathering was read. Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions and to clarify. The group was asked which order they wished to address the items. The group's decision was: the functions, followed by the structure/framework, followed by the coordination group (Care Bears).

Each state/affiliate representative was asked to report back on their state's position with regard to this report. If they were not representing their state they were asked to give a personal opinion and to state that this was a personal opinion.

#### State feedback

Victoria:

- communication - a designated person for electronic communication where possible
- a rotating clearinghouse amongst affiliate groups
- who will decide what the spirit of AVP is and when it is not being upheld

Queensland: - the concept was fine

- there was not enough detail
- the individual members of AVP-Q were asked to complete the questionnaire and return it to David, as it was felt that it was a decision for the members to make.

NSW: - basically agreed

- there were some concerns
- agreed that decisions need to be ratified by affiliated groups

Tasmania: - ratified

- there is a need to prevent the creation of a 'power cartel'
- eg. rotation of positions and equality of representation.

John (WA), not on behalf of the affiliate: - saw many problems in the document.”  
(pg.12)